(घ) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

गृह मंत्री (श्री मुफ्ती मोहम्मद सईद): (क) और (ख) जी हां, श्रीमान।

(ग) से (ङ) दिल्ली पुलिस की कार्य प्रणाली में सुधार करने के लिए पहले ही कई कदम उठाए गए हैं। समिति की सिफारिशों की जांच पूरी हो जाने के बाद आगे उठाए जाने वाले कदमों पर विचार किया जायेगा।

Elections in Punjab

*406. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent statement made by a Union Minister to the effect that elections in Punjab would be held before November 10, 1990 which had appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 14th May, 1990 ; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present term of President's Rule in Punjab is due to expire on 10th November, 1990. The decision regarding holding of elections to the Punjab State Legislative Assembly will be taken at the appropriate time.

Part-time correspondents in AIR

*408. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of part-time Correspondents of A.I.R. in the country ;

(b) what are the monthly wages paid to them;

(c) whether there is any proposal to regularise their posts;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) There are 232 sanctioned posts of Part-time Correspondents in All India Radio.

(b) Part-time Correspondents are paid a consolidated monthly fee of Rs. 250/- per month. Besides the monthly fee, the Part-time Correspondents are given Press Bearing Authority and Reverse-Charge Trunk Call Authority to enable them to send News and other News-based material to the Regional News Units. The charges for telegram and telephone calls etc. are, thus, borne by AIR.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to regularise the services of Part-time Correspondents. The Part-time Correspondents are generally regular employees of other Newspapers/ News Agencies or are engaged in other vocations. They are engaged for specific purpose of sending news or and other news based material to the Regional News Unit whenever there is a news fall out. Thus, AIR's expectations from its Part-time Correspondents are quite limited.

Battery-operated buses

*410. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether the BHEL-designed

experimental Battery operated Buses are said to be highly successful and if so, whether Government propose to produce such buses on large-scale to cater to the needs of mass public transport in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): A pilot demonstration programme has been undertaken by the Department of *Non-Conventional Energy Sources* (DNES) in association with Delhi Energy Development Agency (DEDA) for operations of electravans i.e. battery operated buses, in the crowded areas of Delhi. The DEDA has been operating these buses as an experimental demonstration programme. These vehicles have been found to have a limited range after each recharge and are also prone to breakdowns due to overloading. The seating capacity also is limited. DNES has plans to take up conversion of a few fullsized buses for experimental purposes under its R&D programme with co-operation of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. Technology has thus as yet to be perfected and economic viability demonstrated. There is no proposal at present to produce such buses on large scale to cater to the needs of mass transport.

Honouring of freedom fighters who were Lodged in the cellular Jail at Port Blair

*411. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to honour the top freedom fighters who had spent the prime of their life in the infamous cellular jail in Port Blair during India's freedom movement:

(b) if so, the number and the details of the freedom fighters to be so honoured; and

(c) what arrangements are being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED) : (a) to (c) The freedom fighters who suffered imprisonment in the cellular jail in Port Blair have already been honoured by sanctioning Swatantrata Sainik Saman Pension at the enhanced rate of Rs. 1,000/-p. m. The number of such freedom fighters is 285.

"Programme Generation Facility" at Goa Doordarshan Station

*412. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the "Programme Generation Facility " at Goa Doordarshan Station has been installed but not yet commissioned; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when Government propose to start this Programme and the likely duration for the daily regional programmes thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA):

(a) and (b) The Programme Generation Facility (PGF) set up recently at Panaji could not be commissioned into service because of non-availability of staff. Steps have however, been taken to ensure early